



National Association of State Directors of Special Education, Inc.

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August 19, 2004

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
U.S. House of Representatives
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Hoyer:

The National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE), a not-for-profit organization representing the state directors of special education in the states, federal territories, District of Columbia, Department of Defense and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, is writing thank you for your efforts on behalf of community schools and to offer support for your recently introduced bill, H.R. 4585, the "Full-Service Community Schools Act."

NASDSE believes that the education of a child falls well beyond the school building and should have the support and active involvement from the community at large. It is vital to have collaboration and coordination between early childhood programs; literacy programs; parenting education; health and dental care; and mental health prevention and treatment services, just to name a few among many potential partners. We see it as partnering in education to assist all children in receiving the best possible education to lead to independent and successful lives.

NASDSE applauds your efforts to improve the coordination, delivery, effectiveness, and efficiency of services provided to all children, including the nation's most vulnerable students.

We hope that you will feel free to call upon NASDSE's Board, members and staff to provide you with any additional assistance that you may need. Please feel free to contact Nancy Reder, NASDSE's Director of Government Relations, at (703) 519-3800, ext. 334 or nancy.reder@nasdse.org for information regarding NASDSE's legislative agenda.

Sincerely,

Bill East, Ed.D.
Executive Director